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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,184	07/10/2001	Robert Craig Murphy	07099.1529	7537

826                      7590                      12/20/2005

ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
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CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER
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LY, ANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Interview Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/902,184	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MURPHY ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Anh Ly	<b>Art Unit</b> 2162	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Anh Ly. (3) \_\_\_\_.
- (2) Kevin Ransom (Reg. No.: 45,031). (4) \_\_\_\_.

Date of Interview: WED. 12/14/05.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.  
If Yes, brief description: \_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) discussed: Claim 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Schiff et al. of Pub. No.: US 2003/0004760 A1 & Spenger et al. USPN: 6,363,388 B1.


Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicants' representative will amend all independent claims in order to overcome the applied references and to also clarify the concept of "Not all of the electronic storage facilities use the same customer ID for each customer" for using as cross-references. And Examiner suggests to include/add/incorporate the existing claim language of claim 3 into all independent claims.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

  
 Anh Ly 12/14/05  
 Examiner's signature, if required

## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

#### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

##### Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

#### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

This facsimile message and its contents are legally privileged and confidential information intended solely for the use of the addressee. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or other use of this message and its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this telecopy in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address shown below via the United States Postal Service. Thank You.

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PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

**TO:** Examiner Anh Ly**FROM:** W. Kevin Ransom**FAX NOTES:**

For 10:00 am Interview

Please "ENTER"  
Thank  
RJ 12/14/05

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## PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 09/902,184 Confirmation No.: 7537  
Applicant(s): Robert Craig Murphy  
Filed: July 10, 2001  
Art Unit: 2172  
Examiner: A. Ly  
Title: SYSTEMS AND METHOD FOR INTEGRATING  
ELECTRONIC STORAGE FACILITIES

Docket No.: 023895/257911  
Customer No.: 00826

## TALKING POINTS FOR INTERVIEW

**I. Background of Invention**

The claimed invention provides a master data store. The master data store acts as a cross-reference to a plurality of electronic storage facilities. Each of the electronic storage facilities includes customer information that has an associated customer ID. Not all of the electronic storage facilities use the same customer ID for each customer. Therefore, one has to know the specific customer ID used for by each electronic storage facility in order to access information on a customer from various electronic storage facilities. In this regard, the master data store includes a unique identifier for each customer. Associated with each unique identifier is a list of the different electronic storage facilities that contain information about the customer and the customer ID used by each electronic storage facility to reference the information. By using the master data store, one can determine all electronic storage facilities that contain information about a customer and the customer ID needed to access the information.

**II. Summary of Rejections**

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in light of the combination of U.S. Patent App. No. 2003/000476 to Schiff with U.S. Patent No. 6,363,388 to Sprenger et al. The Office Action argues that the '476 Schiff application discloses all aspects of Claim 1, except that it does not teach "cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the received identifying

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information and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information." The Office Action alleges, however, that this portion of the claim is disclosed in the '388 Sprenger patent and that it would be obvious to combine the references.

### **III. Remarks**

Provided below are at least two reasons why the claims are patentable over the cited combination:

#### **A. No Reason to Combine the References**

Applicant submits that in making the combination the Office Action attempted to combine a teaching from the '388 Sprenger patent that is not needed or necessary in the '476 Schiff application. The Office Action argues that the motivation for combining the references is that the discussion in the '388 Sprenger patent concerning cross-referencing of information would be helpful in cross-referencing information in a complex database. This argument misses the point. As discussed in previous amendments concerning like references, the '476 Schiff system does not include customer information in different databases. The system of the '476 Schiff application includes all customer information in one customer database. As all of the data relating to each customer is in one database in the system of the '476 Schiff application, the system does not need and would not use the cross-referencing techniques described in the '388 Sprenger patent. More importantly, one skilled in the art looking to solve a problem of cross-referencing customer information stored in multiple databases would not be motivated to combine a reference that contains data about a customers only in one database (i.e., '476 Schiff application) with a reference discussing in general cross-referencing of information (i.e., '388 Sprenger patent).

Applicant further submits that even if there was a suggestion to combine the references, that the combination would not meet the claims. Specifically, as discussed above, the system of the '476 Schiff application includes customer data only in one database. Therefore, in the combination, there would be no cross-referencing of

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customer information stored in different databases because the system of the '476 Schiff application only has customer data in one database.

**B. Neither Reference Teaches or Suggests At least One Element of the Claimed Invention**

Independent Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 23, and 25 all recite, albeit in somewhat different language, "cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the received identifying information and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information." The Office Action argues that this element is disclosed in the '388 Sprenger patent. Applicant disagrees. Although the '388 Sprenger patent may discuss cross-referencing of customer IDs, it no where teaches or suggests also providing an indication of which of the databases contain customer information, as is recited in the claims.

In particular, all that the '388 Sprenger patent discloses on this issue is as follows:

ExternalXref 420 allows a customer to be tracked using an identification number that is separate from the internally generated PID number. Clients often have a database of customers and will have already assigned their own identifier to each customer. The ExternalXref table 420 allows these externally generated identifiers to be cross-referenced back to the right customer in the database.

See '388 Sprenger, col. 21, lines 46-52. Nothing discloses or suggests how the identification number is created for each customer. Further, it nowhere teaches or suggest that an indication of

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the electronic storage facility containing the customer information is stored along with the identification number in the ExternalXref.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Kevin Ransom

Registration No. 45,031

**Customer No. 00826**

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**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number 571-273-4039 on the date shown below.



W. Kevin Ransom

12/14/2005

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